



## Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk

August 8, 1936 - June 24, 2025

Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk, age 88, of Commerce, GA died Tuesday, June 24, 2025. Mrs. Merk was born in Commerce to the late Leo and Lauree Park Shirley. She was a member of the Baptist faith and retired from the Jefferson City Schools. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Merk was preceded in death by her husband, George Emory Merk; grandchildren, Chris Merk and Jessica Martin; great-grandson, Boyd Archer Merk; and several brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Merk is survived by her sons, Mike Merk (Joni) and Phillip Merk (Ali) both of Commerce; daughter, Gloria Martin (Jerry) of Winder; sister, Marion Salter of Forest Park; grandchildren, Chad Merk (Hayleigh), Jarrett Martin (Ashley), Gabe Merk and Vivi Merk; five great-grandchildren, Emory Merk, Everett Martin, Briggs Martin, Merritt Martin and Rollins Martin; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 3 PM, Sunday, June 29 at the chapel of Little-Ward Funeral Home with Rev. Ken Barrett officiating. Interment will be at 10 AM, Monday, June 30 at Oconee Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Sunday from 1 to 3 PM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Jackson County Senior Center: 151 Stan Evans Drive Jefferson, GA 30549 and 706-367-5101.

Little-Ward Funeral Home, Commerce is in charge of arrangements.



# Cemetery Details

## Oconee Baptist Church Cemetery

4554 GA 82 Spur  
Commerce, GA 30529

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 29.** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Little-Ward Funeral Home  
115 State Street  
Commerce, GA 30529  
(706) 335-3175  
lwfh@windstream.net  
<https://www.little-wardfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

**JUN 29.** 3:00 PM (ET)

Chapel of Little-Ward Funeral Home  
115 State St.  
Commerce, GA 30529

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ *The entire Shirley family feels the loss. We extend our sympathies to all of you. She was a great woman, and I always enjoyed the conversations I had with her over the years. I hope justice will be served on those who were responsible. If there is anything I can do, do not hesitate to ask. - Steven Shirley*

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**Steven Shirley** - June 29, 2025 at 08:55 AM

TS

“ *MAW and I have had the best of times together in the last few years hanging out at the Seniors center and elsewhere. I treasure the time I have been able to spend with her. It was so special and I will miss her so terribly. My heart's broken. She was a special light to us all and now can be with those she has missed. Love you MAW! Your niece, Terri Shirley*



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**Terri Shirley** - June 28, 2025 at 09:06 PM

RU

*I'm heartbroken for I only knew her from church but she was a great lady and Im grateful to have known her for a little time going to miss her smile love you Caroline*

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**RubyHerring** - June 28, 2025 at 10:27 PM

JJ

“ *Jacqueline Joffrion lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk*



Jacqueline Joffrion - June 26, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk.

June 26, 2025 at 04:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk.*



June 26, 2025 at 04:11 PM

TE

“ *Tammy R East lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk*



Tammy R East - June 26, 2025 at 02:40 PM

TE

*Phillip & family, y'all are in my prayers, 🙏🙏🙏*

Tammy R East - June 26, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk.

June 26, 2025 at 02:25 PM



“ Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk.



June 26, 2025 at 02:25 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk.



June 26, 2025 at 01:48 PM



“ Trey & Amanda (AJ) Childs & Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk.



Trey & Amanda (AJ) Childs & Family - June 26, 2025 at 09:48 AM

TF

“ Trey & Amanda (AJ) Childs & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk.

Trey & Amanda (AJ) Childs & Family - June 26, 2025 at 09:48 AM

DC

“ Mrs Carolyn was such a a sweet Lady.I met her at the Senior Center She always shared a sweet smile and gada kind word but her eyes are what first drew me to meet her In her eyes were wisdom joy, and kindness Anyone who ever met Mrs Carolyn knew without a doubt that she belonged to Jesus. I was honored to have known her. Many prayers for her family Donba Crutchfield

Donna Crutchfield - June 26, 2025 at 08:00 AM

DS

Aunt Carolyn always had a kindness about her. Her infectious smile and good-natured spirit were her hallmarks. Anyone who knew her could instantly appreciate her warmth and positive nature. She loved people and had a real zest for life. She celebrated life every day and for her, each day was a special one. She was special to everyone who knew her. She was well-loved by all who knew her and will be sorely missed. She had a loving heart and always a kind word. That is how i remember my aunt Carolyn. My prayers go out to her family at this difficult time. --David Shirley

David Shirley - June 26, 2025 at 12:56 PM

KS

“ I knew Ms Carolyn through the Jackson County Senior Center. She was such a sweet lady. She will be missed by all that were fortunate enough to have known her! Rest in the Lord's arms!❤️❤️ Kathy Strickland

Kathryn Strickland - June 25, 2025 at 07:40 PM

KB

“ Family,  
I'm sorry for your loss. No one will ever replace the love of a mother and you all definitely had one of the very best. She made the biggest difference in life. I fell in love with her sweet potatoes topped with marshmallows and a smile that could light up the room. I can still feel her warm, strong hugs and she was always so encouraging to me. May God comfort you all and feel your mind with loving memories.

*You all are in my prayers!*

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**Katie Barrett** - June 25, 2025 at 07:39 PM

KG

*We are so sorry to hear of the lost of yall mother so was one sweet lady praying for peace and comfort for the family*

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**katie and larry grizzle** - June 26, 2025 at 08:52 AM

CL

“ I will carry you in my heart always Ms Carolyn. You made my days brighter just pulling in the driveway. Heaven has gained a beautiful angel. Fly high my sweet friend. I love you



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**Cindi Longwell** - June 25, 2025 at 07:09 PM

YB

“ Yvonne Beatty lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Carolyn Shirley Merk



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**Yvonne Beatty** - June 25, 2025 at 06:23 PM